

Chicago Air Route Traffic Control Center

"Our vision is to be the flagship air traffic facility, setting the standard of excellence in safety, customer service and accountability to the public."

Chicago Air Route Traffic Control Center (ZAU) is an en-route facility with airspace overlying six Midwestern states, including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan and Missouri. ZAU provides air traffic services to the Chicago and Milwaukee Metropolitan areas and numerous underlying approach control facilities. The center's eight areas of specialization are comprised of 28 high altitude sectors and 20 low altitude sectors. The facility handles approximately 3,000,000 aircraft operations per year with a staff of approximately 500 operational personnel.

General Facts

- One of 21 ARTCC's in United States
- Highest level (ATC-12) air traffic facility
- Located in Aurora, Illinois since 1962

Air Traffic Operations

- Over 500 employees including certified professional controllers, developmental controllers (trainees), supervisors, managers, and support staff
- Traffic Management – Systems Operation Unit
- 8 areas of specialization and 48 radar sectors
- 21 underlying approach controls; 281 airports with IAPs
- 14 military operating areas (MOAs); 4 restricted areas

Technical Operations

- Nearly 100 electronics technicians, engineers and computer specialists
- Systems Operations Center (SOC)
- 175 radio receivers/transmitters
- 150 landlines plus 100 microwave links
- 9 long-range radar receivers/transmitters
- 35 critical systems continuously monitored
- Non-interruptible power supply
 - On the grid with battery backup and six diesel generators with two week fuel supply

